

Chairman Taborsak, Chairman Doyle and members of the committee:

My name is Carolyn Humphreys. I live in Bethlehem and work for Sunlight Solar Energy in Milford. The following testimony is in support of *House Bill No. 6337, AN ACT CLARIFYING THE SCOPE OF SOLAR ELECTRICITY WORK* which is intended to clarify the scope of solar electricity work permitted by PV-1 licensed contractors.

I'd like to speak to why a PV-1 license is actually preferable to an E-1 license for a solar company. And I'd actually go so far as to propose that all solar companies be required to have a PV-1, PV-2 or certified PV Systems Designer on staff. If the PV-1 licensed contractor is stripped of his right to tie into the grid, I would imagine this very important license will no longer be pursued. This would be a terrible loss for the Connecticut solar industry and will likely drive more trained solar professionals to other states.

Hiring an electrician to simply tie into the electrical grid would be moving back in time, costing solar companies more and ultimately the ratepayer and solar investor more. They do not have solar training and are sometimes unwilling or unable to work on roofs.

Electricians are not roof workers or ground mounting experts. They do not possess extensive knowledge about where the sun is all day, much less all year. They haven't been trained to understand how obstructions on the roof, and off the roof (trees, other roofs etc) will affect a solar panel, a series of solar panels or an array of solar panels. They typically have no experience with solar PV inverters and how to match them to solar arrays and how they can accommodate different types of shading. A firm understanding of solar declination is not necessary for electricians but is critical for solar installers.

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Ironically, with no knowledge of declination, an electrician's numbers will be off by 14 degrees- pretty significant. But if he gets confused and declines the wrong direction, his numbers will be predicated on a system that is 28 degrees in the wrong direction, either on paper or in a field- that's very significant, especially over 25-50 years of operation.

Ratepayer funds should be insured against bad outcomes and less than optimal solar production. The CT solar industry, built by solar installers, and funded by CT ratepayers, deserves credit for what we know and for the high quality solar installations we've installed that have consistently lived up to their energy production estimates. "Getting it right" is vital to the continued health of our industry. We need to ensure that our solar production figures are accurate, roofs are capable of carrying wind and snow loads in addition to our panels and that roofs do not leak after our equipment is installed.

The solar industry welcomed out-of-work electricians, trained them and now call them our own. And this is how our industry is treated? Revoking the authority of the PV-1 license holder to perform their job function, after our industry for years has played by the rules set by the Legislature and the Department of Consumer Protection, is beyond belief. It's wrong to exclude solar professionals from the CT solar industry rather than share it with the folks who built it.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

**Carolyn Humphreys
Outreach & Public Relations Director
Sunlight Solar Energy, Inc.
Cell ph: 203.446.7181
Office: 203.878.9123
carolyn@sunlightsolar.com
sunlightsolar.com**